

He passed away on October 3rd of this year at the age of 54. Judge Gargiulo was the youngest of six children, and was raised on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Judge Gargiulo was a decorated veteran who served in the Active Duty Army, the Mississippi Army National Guard, and the Mississippi Air National Guard. He deployed in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After serving twenty-seven years as a commissioned officer, Judge Gargiulo retired holding the rank of Colonel.

After serving on Active Duty, Judge Gargiulo received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law.

In 2000, he was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney. He served as counsel in over fifty jury trials including three capital-offense prosecutions. He prosecuted two of America's Most Wanted criminals, resulting in guilty verdicts. He was awarded the Community Service Award by the Gulf Coast Crime Victim's Rights Coalition in 2005.

In 2009, the Governor of the State of Mississippi appointed Judge Gargiulo as Circuit Court Judge. In August of 2014, after a rigorous screening of candidates by a merit selection panel comprised of lawyers and other citizens, Judge Gargiulo was appointed by the District Court to serve as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi. He served on the bench for more than seven years, before his untimely passing.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Judge Gargiulo—a loving father, brother, son, patriot, and dedicated public servant. I send my heartfelt condolences to his friends, his three children (Andrew, Jordan, and Katherine), his fiancée (Stephanie Ingram), and his brothers and sister.

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HONORING RETIRED COL. VICTOR  
"VIC" FERNANDEZ

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend, patriot, and man of great faith, Retired Col. Victor "Vic" Fernandez. A 30-year Army veteran, Vic served his country valiantly and led the effort to establish the Pikes Peak National Cemetery in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

A Colorado native, Vic grew up in Trinidad with a longstanding family tradition of military service. His great grandfather fought in the Civil War, his father in World War II, and his uncle was captured at the battle of Corregidor in World War II and later survived the Bataan Death March. Vic followed this tradition of service to his country and graduated from West Point in 1959 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Vic's 30-year career included two Panama tours, two Germany tours, and multiple stateside postings in addition to his time in the Vietnam War.

Vic served two tours in Vietnam, and upon his return, was disheartened at the poor reception he and other soldiers received. Because of this experience, Vic dedicated his retirement to ensuring that soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan did not share the same experience. He and his wife Sherry, spent

many late nights at airports and military bases, often waiting until 2 a.m., to greet returning troops with a warm handshake, a cheeseburger with fries, a welcoming smile, and prayer.

Additionally, Vic served as president of the Pikes Peak Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. He was also a founding member of the Board of Home Front Cares and the Southeast Family Center and Armed Services YMCA.

In 1999, Vic became the chairman of the Pikes Peak Veterans Cemetery Committee. He advocated for a National Veterans Cemetery in the Pikes Peak region. Vic wanted a place that would serve the veterans of Southern Colorado for generations to follow. In 2006, he, and the other founding members of the cemetery board, Ralph McCutchen and Joe Henjum approached me with their vision. On my second day in office in January 2007, I introduced H.R. 295, which directed the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the Pikes Peak region.

In May of 2008, I conducted a field hearing in Colorado Springs to address The National Cemetery Administration's longstanding 75-mile rule. A typical spring day in Colorado, VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs William F. Tuerk and other distinguished guests traveling to the hearing were greeted with sunny weather in Denver upon arrival. By the time they drove through Castle Rock, snowflakes were falling. The field hearing started over an hour late, because of poor road conditions, due to a white-out blizzard on Monument Hill. Vic and everyone involved in the hearing could only attribute the storm to divine intervention.

During the hearing, Vic offered passionate testimony and argued that 'these geographic and weather pattern hindrances make the Veterans Administration internal 75-mile rule a useless tool in the state of Colorado. The combination of the geography, weather patterns and a foolish regulation serves only to assure that the Veterans and their families in the Pikes Peak Region and southern Colorado are not properly nor fairly served by Fort Logan.'

Because of providential weather conditions and the testimony of Vic, and others, Under Secretary Tuerk decided it was appropriate to break the VA's longstanding, 75-mile rule and establish a national cemetery in Southern Colorado.

Years later, after legislation for the cemetery was signed into law, Vic told a reporter, 'I think God is keeping me alive so I can be buried there.' Vic had dedicated over 20 years passionately advocating for this national monument. In 2018, the Pikes Peak National Cemetery opened, with the capacity for 197,000 veterans to be interred. Because of his vision, the Pikes Peak National Cemetery will serve as a permanent monument and final resting place for generations of our nation's heroes.

In addition to his deep-rooted patriotism, Vic was a man of dedicated spiritual conviction. A longtime parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi in Colorado Springs, he served as a Grand Knight in the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic men's chapter that he helped to establish.

Vic was a giant amongst men and lived his life tenaciously in service to his Creator, his nation, his family, and his community. His life-

time of service has left a permanent impact on the Pikes Peak region.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring this man of great faith, passion, and patriotism, my friend, U.S. Army Retired Col. Victor "Vic" Fernandez.

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HONORING DONALD BAKER

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Clintwood, Virginia's mayor, Donald Baker, who died on October 7, 2021, at the age of 83. Mr. Baker was a dedicated and longtime public servant.

Mr. Baker served the town of Clintwood for over three decades. He was first elected to the town's council in 1980 and served as the mayor since 1988. He was spoken very highly of by his colleagues for his enduring generosity to the community. He was a great representative for the citizens of Clintwood. He was attentive to the community's concerns and addressed them with compassion and integrity.

During his time in service, he worked diligently to build coalitions to obtain grants and funding for community improvement projects. He was well known for governing by conservative financial values. During his 41 years of service, he kept the provision of affordable goods and services as a top priority for him. He was esteemed by colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Mr. Baker was known as a friend to many and held a strong voice in the region.

Outside of his work in the public service, he worked and operated in the coal industry for many years. He also served as a Bank Director at several banks in the region up until his retirement. And he was a member of the Army Reserve Forces serving at rank of Sergeant.

Even in his free time, Mr. Baker still dedicated his time to helping others. For over 60 years he volunteered at every level of Little League baseball and softball. He tirelessly worked with school leaders and coaches to support Clintwood athletics and their children.

Mayor Baker was preceded in death by his wife, Martha Ann Anderson; his parents, James Garfield Baker and Nell Arrington Baker; and his brothers, Harold Baker, Carl Baker, and Marvin Baker.

He is survived by his two sons, Greg Baker and his wife Lora, and Mike Baker; his granddaughter, Emily Ann Baker Dressner; grandson Thomas Gregory Baker; and one great-grandson, John Mark Dressner. I offer my condolences on the loss of this good man and great leader.

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CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-  
MENDATION FOR SERGEANT  
FIRST CLASS KEN CATES

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to present Sergeant First Class

Ken Cates, U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard, Retired with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service and devotion to the military, his nation, and his community speak to the best of our Texas' altruistic spirit.

Heeding the call to serve, SFC Cates entered the military in 1988. During this time, he completed many heroic missions which included over 120 emergency combat responses as Operations Center Manager, 150 coordinated executive leader engagement missions, and 15 natural disaster responses. Throughout his military career, he applied his tremendous talents and energies to the defense of our great nation.

SFC Cates closed out twenty-seven years of military service in 2015. While many would embrace a life of retirement, he still displays his loyal and selfless nature by providing aid to Veterans in the Fort Hood Area. SFC Cates currently works for the Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity and is working to support a veterans housing establishment in his area. His commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities to improve his community has not gone unnoticed. In 2019, Cates was named a "Hometown Hero" by the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce and the 2019 NEXEN Hero.

I proudly join SFC Ken Cates' friends, family, and colleagues in saluting his selfless service to the military and his beloved Texas home. His work brings to life Gandhi's words, that "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." I congratulate SFC Ken Cates and thank him for his service.

#### HONORING TYRE PHILLIPS

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community servant Mr. Tyre Phillips.

Tyre Phillips was born in Grenada, Mississippi, which is known as the city that smiles, in January of 1997. Tyre is the son of James and Jusquelynn Phillips of Grenada, MS. He is also a member of Open Door Abundant Life Church of Apostolic Faith in Charleston, MS, where his father is the pastor.

Phillips received his high school diploma in 2015. After graduation, he went to East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) in Scooba, MS, where he gained a full ride scholarship in football. Phillips started both years at EMCC. After the two years, he graduated from EMCC and received a full ride scholarship to go play football at Mississippi State University.

January 2017, Phillips began going to Mississippi State. His first season there he was redshirted, which later down the road he called "the best thing I ever could have done." During his junior year, he played at both tackle positions as part of an offensive line rotation. During his senior year, he started all 13 games the Bulldogs played in. Phillips played in the 2020 Senior Bowl after his senior season. During his time at Mississippi State University, he became a member of Omega Psi Phi Incorporated and he received SEC honors. Phillips then graduated from Mississippi State

University with his Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Science with Child Youth Development.

After graduation, Phillips then started training for the NFL combine. He was soon drafted by the Baltimore Ravens in the third round with the 106th overall pick of the 2020 NFL Draft. During training camp, he shifted from tackle to offensive guard for the starting job at the start of the season despite dealing with an ankle injury. Phillips started 8 games and played 12 games overall his rookie year as a Raven. Phillips is now entering his second year as a Raven and he is now battling for a starting position for this upcoming season.

During the off season, Phillips offers music lessons to children in the community. He also assists in local football camps for aspiring athletic youth. Next year, Phillips will be starting his own camp, investing in young men in his community, as many from the city of Grenada did for him.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Tyre Phillips for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF HENRY THACKER "HARRY" BURLEIGH

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the contributions of Henry Thacker "Harry" Burleigh of the great state of New York. The newly christened Harry T. Burleigh Place in Gramercy Park celebrates a man who dedicated his life to enhancing lives through music singing, composing and social justice. This well-deserving recognition honors the indelible impact Mr. Burleigh, known widely as the Father of Spiritual Music, left on New York and communities around the world.

Born in 1866 and growing up in Erie, Pennsylvania as a young African-American baritone singer, Harry Burleigh traveled to New York City and applied to the National Conservatory of Music to study with well-known Director and composer, Antonin Dvorak. His exceptional talent was recognized, and a scholarship awarded to Mr. Burleigh in 1892 enabled him to gain experience editing recordings and developing his classical spirituals. One of these was "Deep River" a spiritual composition from 1917 which is recognized all over the world to this day.

Tragically, Mr. Burleigh's life was spent under the heinous abuses of Jim Crow, and the systemic discrimination of "separate but equal" endemic to it. Yet in the face of these challenges to his rights and liberties, Mr. Burleigh always led with his talents and tireless work ethic, earning him many glowing accomplishments throughout his life. In 1894, Mr. Burleigh auditioned at St. George's Episcopal Church at 4 Rutherford Place in Manhattan, which still stands proudly today within my district and holds concerts celebrating Burleigh's compositions annually. Church member J.P. Morgan insisted that St. George's hire Mr. Burleigh, and so became the church's Choral Director. He would continue to introduce and play his classical spir-

itual music there for 52 years. Concurrently he integrated Temple Emanu-El, now Congregation Emanu-El, for a quarter of a century. In 1895, Mr. Burleigh made it a point to personally test the strength of newly passed civil rights laws in New York by asking for service at 25 establishments.

From 1908 onward, he sang for King Edward VII in London, performed on Mayor La Guardia's weekly radio show Talk to the People, and composed over 200 pieces encompassing the classical spiritual music genre. The renowned Dvorak' Symphony No. 9 (From the New World) credits the incorporation and soulfulness of Burleigh's spiritual works. Mr. Burleigh was also a distinguished chartered member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) bestowed with great public honors. He received the 1917 N.A.A.C.P. Spingarn Achievement Medal, and honorary Doctorate of Music from Howard University and Atlanta University in 1920. In addition, Mr. Burleigh mentored Paul Robeson, Marian Anderson, Roland Hayes and Enrico Caruso who would go on to make their own exciting contributions to our nation's musical story.

Mr. Burleigh's legacy of social justice lives on through The Harry T. Burleigh Society. Formed in 2017, the society continues Burleigh's important legacy of disrupting boundaries and challenging social norms to address issues of our time. The Center for Peace, Equity & Justice at Friends Seminary School in New York City, coordinated an education/postcard campaign that was sent to Community Board Six in Manhattan, further highlighting his importance in American social justice to our beloved city.

The co-naming on September 12, 2021 at the South East corner of 16th Street and Third Avenue, Harry T. Burleigh Place, stands now as a testament to his important work as a baritone soloist, choral director, music arranger, editor, mentor, and a New York Community leader.

Harry Burleigh contributed so much to New York and the world, adding his sonorous and unique brand of spiritual signing to our ever-growing chorus of American culture. I am pleased to add my own voice to that chorus today in recognition and remembrance of this great man.

#### HONORING REV. ISIAH JACKSON, JR.

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant Reverend Isiah Jackson, Jr.

Rev. Jackson began his formal education at Rogers High School in Canton, Mississippi, where he received his high school diploma in 1965. He attended Prentiss Junior College for two years and completed his undergraduate education at Alcorn State University, where he attained a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1973.

Before becoming a Minister of the Gospel, Rev. Jackson taught in the Canton Public School System for years. Other experience consists of working as Supervisor I, Madison